



Maine Forest Service
Ice Storm Newsletter
#1
July 27, 1998



**NEW COMPONENTS APPROVED
FOR ICE STORM DAMAGE
CLEAN-UP**

Two new components have been approved to facilitate ice storm damage clean-up. They are SIP component 45ICE, "Designation of Trees for Removal in Storm-Damaged Stands" and SIP component 47ICE, "Construction of Forest Access Corridors".

45ICE is part of the SIP3 practice (Forest and Agroforest Improvement) and may be used to mark trees for thinning or for non-commercial harvests, where the cost of harvesting exceeds the stumpage paid to the landowner. This will be useful in marking stands for salvage where the volume and quality are low. SIP pays 75% of the cost of this component, up to \$30.00 per acre. If used in a non-commercial harvest, cost documentation will be required.

47ICE is part of the SIP5 practice (Soil and Water Protection and Improvement) and is to be used for construction of roads to access areas that need non-commercial activities as a result of ice storm damage. These activities include reduction of fire and safety hazards, corrective pruning, thinning, and non-commercial harvesting. If a road is constructed under this component, the landowner must also apply for and implement SIP component 408 (Forest Land Erosion Control System). SIP will pay 75% of the cost of component 47ICE not to exceed \$2.50 per linear foot. Component 408 pays 75% of the cost not to exceed \$550 per acre served. Because of this new practice, it is no longer necessary to construct a trail under SIP9 and apply erosion control measures under SIP5.

**FOREST STEWARDSHIP
ASSISTANCE**

We have received more than 450 requests for cost-sharing for management planning through the Forest Stewardship Assistance Program. The new computer program is up and running, keeping ice storm and regular allocations separate and with the new feature of listing the forest consultant. Approval letters are starting to go out and you should be receiving your copies shortly.

**USDA FOREST SERVICE LIFTS
WAIVER REQUIREMENTS**

The USDA Forest Service has dropped its requirements for waivers for landowners with more than 1000 acres of land. They found that there was more than enough justification to allow landowners with up to 5000 acres to receive Stewardship and SIP cost-share funds. Any landowner who has submitted a waiver application will be informed of this decision and will be approved for management planning upon completion of a Forest Stewardship Assistance form.

THE "ICE LINE" IS HOT!

The Maine Forest "Ice Line" has received more than 1000 calls from small landowners requesting information on help to clean up ice storm damage on their woodlots since the line's inception on June 3. Packets of information have gone out to these

landowners listing management planning cost-share availability and a list of consultants trained in delivering the ice storm program, as well as general information on woodlot management. If you or a client has questions about the ice storm damage relief program, call the Ice Line at:

I-877-ICE TREE

(1-877-423-8733)

SIP ICE DOLLARS ALLOCATED TO COUNTIES

The following amounts have been allocated to the county Farm Service Agency offices for use in the SIP ice storm clean-up program:

Androscoggin County	\$200,000
Aroostook County (southern)	\$ 50,000
Cumberland County	\$150,000
Franklin County	\$100,000
Hancock County	\$100,000
Kennebec County	\$200,000
Knox County	\$100,000
Lincoln County	\$100,000
Oxford County	\$200,000
Penobscot County	\$100,000
Piscataquis County	\$100,000
Sagadahoc County	\$100,000
Somerset County	\$100,000
Waldo County	\$200,000
Washington County	\$100,000
York County	\$100,000
TOTAL	\$2,000,000

Northern and central Aroostook County, not affected by the ice storms, has received \$50,000 in regular SIP allocations.

Farm Service Agency offices are ready to take sign-ups for SIP. Remember that Project Outlines are required!

REMINDER

SIP Practices are for clean-up only!!

All SIP practices must be related to cleaning up damage related to the ice storm. For example, you cannot put in a new recreational trail unless it is being used to access an area that needs cleanup or is being used to re-route a trail that was very badly damaged.

WHAT IS "DAMAGE"?

Following are guidelines for defining damage in a **stand** of trees. Remember that a stand that is rated trace to light may still have individual trees that are severely damaged...

Trace - - - - - 1% - 5% crown breakage
Light - - - - - 6% - 20% crown breakage
Moderate - - - 21% - 50% crown breakage
Heavy - - - - - over 50% crown breakage

... and damage is not only defined in terms of timber management, but also for safety considerations and for aesthetic qualities. What may seem to be insignificant damage in terms of timber may be very important to the landowner visually. Often it is the landowner's concern for how his or her woodlot looks that first brings him/her to think about managing the land.

ICE STORM WEB SITE

Information and pictures on the ice storms of January 1998 may be found on the State of Maine web page at:
www.state.me.us

This site will be periodically updated to include information on the availability of photos, cost-share program status and forms and other information that you may find useful.